

# **DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**

## **TRANSITION REPORT**

**December 2000**

### **ANIMAL HEALTH**

**Trichomoniasis**- The Utah Cattlemen and the Utah Farm Bureau requested that the Division implement a Trichomoniasis control program similar to that of Idaho. In November 1998, rules were developed requiring testing of all bulls entering the state and those going to a common grazing allotment. That initial program revealed the extent of the disease problem in this state. The following year, those two organizations approached the legislature to obtain funding for a statewide mandatory program. This effort was successful on their part and resulted in the division developing rules for a statewide program and providing training, education, and a reporting system to track the progress of the program.

**EIA** -Equine Infectious Anemia was detected in 1997 in free roaming horses in the Uintah Basin. The division was able to obtain the cooperation of the various stakeholders in the testing of those animals. Private owners, the Ute Tribe, and the BLM participated in an unprecedented cooperative effort with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to test and remove the diseased animals from those herds. Over 2,300 animals were captured and tested over a two year period beginning in April, 2000, and still ongoing. The effort achieved national attention and a major public relations effort was necessary to satisfy the concerns of tribal members, private horse owners, animal rights activists, and various government agencies and educational institutions. A by product of the effort was the establishment of excellent working relationships with the Ute Tribe, BLM, Uintah county officials, and many others.

**CWD** -Chronic Wasting Disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of deer and elk. The "mad cow disease" crisis in UK, the increasing profile of CWD in deer and elk, and a perceived increase in CJD in Utah citizens, converged to create a media event on the subject in 1999. In anticipation of this, the Division of Animal Industry had previously embarked on a cooperative effort with the Division of Wildlife Resources to obtain surveillance samples from hunter harvested elk and deer in 1998 in order to ascertain the presence or absence of the disease in Utah deer and elk. Following the media event, CDC and USDA asked for our participation in an expanded surveillance effort the following year. Over the two year period, 750 samples were collected and all were negative. This pre-emptive surveillance effort served the Department and the State well during the media event.

Additionally, a Symposium on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy was organized by the division veterinarians and with the support of FDA. Top national experts on the subject gave presentations in a day long symposium attended by media representatives, veterinarians, public health people, wildlife personnel and the interested public. The program helped to quell the hysteria surrounding the media event and provided timely information to those who required answers.

**Brucellosis**- New legislation was passed in 1999 removing the requirement for mandatory vaccination of cattle for brucellosis and directing the Department to make rules requiring brucellosis testing of cattle entering the state. Those rules have been developed in such a manner as to continue to protect livestock owners in the state from the introduction of brucellosis and yet keep Utah compatible with the National Brucellosis Eradication & Control Program.

**Johne's Disease**- Utah producers have become increasingly at risk for introducing Johne's Disease to their herds as they literally scour the nation in search of replacement animals. A national program is emerging for the control of this disease. An informal Johne's Disease Advisory Committee has been formed to help increase producer awareness of this disease and posture the State of Utah for participation in a national program. The committee has sought certification of laboratories in the state, adopted the model National Johne's Disease Herd Status Program, and promoted educational training meetings for veterinarians and producers. The producers may seek legislative funding for a state program similar to other states.

**RAP** -The serology lab completed a conversion to a new computerized, automated system for brucellosis testing in 1998. The system is designed to remove human inconsistencies in the interpretation of test results and is called the Rapid Automated Presumptive (RAP) test. This was accomplished through a cooperative effort with USDA and puts Utah in a position with other states regarding current technology.

**CPM** -The Commissioner has strongly encouraged Department personnel to become trained as Certified Public Managers. Toward that end, five of our supervisory people are CPM graduates, including the Division Director and Program Managers. Three have completed CPM II, and three more have completed CPM I.

**NAHRS** -The National Animal Health Reporting System is a joint effort between the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Its purpose is to provide data on the presence of clinical disease in commercial livestock species in the U.S. Current species included in the report are cattle, small ruminants, horses, swine, commercial poultry, and commercial food fish. This information is used to complete reports required by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). Its benefits include support for export markets. The credibility of U.S. and Utah product quality is enhanced by having a disease reporting system in place. This helps for interstate as well as international exports, and helps provide improved prices for domestic markets. Utah is one of 30 states currently participating in the reporting system, beginning in 1999. It has also direct benefit to the state as it strengthens the State's internal disease surveillance abilities. It keeps open communication between diagnostic laboratories, private practitioners, and accredited veterinarians, public health agencies, fish and wildlife agencies, extension specialists, and laboratories in surrounding States, on a monthly basis as the report is completed.

**UEQAP** -The Egg Quality Assurance Program is an integrated voluntary animal production food safety program designed to ensure the highest quality and safety of eggs. The program follows the principles of HACCP and contains twenty-three core components, which have been identified as critical areas of required monitoring or intervention. Currently this partnership involves input and communication between five member agencies, Utah egg producers, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Department of Health, USDA/APHIS, and the FDA. It was begun in 1998 and was one of only 3 such programs in the country at that time. The benefits have been increased communication with producers and participating agencies in a proactive effort to achieve food safety in the marketplace.

**BSE Partnership Agreement-** This partnership was formed to provide cooperation between the Food and Drug Administration and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, in the enforcement of the regulation published under 21 CFR 589.2000, which prohibited the feeding of mammalian protein to ruminant animals. Its purpose is to prevent the establishment or amplification of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the United States. The partnership required training of five veterinarians from animal industry and two individuals from plant industry for in- depth inspections of animal by - product rendering establishments, blending, and feed manufacturing industries in the State of Utah. A total of 26 inspections were performed. Inspections were performed for both knowledge and compliance with the regulation prohibiting use of animal protein in ruminant feeds. In- depth inspections involved receiving, storage and handling, separation, manufacturing processes, clean out procedures, damaged and waste product handling, proper labeling and distribution. Deficiencies were documented and corrections recommended. Firms with deficiencies were then re inspected to insure compliance was achieved.

### **Future Objectives**

1. Our CPM Training and the successes we have experienced as we have worked together as teams in our Division and in the Department have sparked our leadership energy and given us confidence to deal with problems and find solutions as they arise. We look forward to expanding the working relationships we have developed with other agencies, including USDA, FDA, BLM, DWR, DOH, extension personnel, tribal leaders, producer groups, and private individuals as we keep our hands on the pulse of agriculture and position ourselves to anticipate and respond to situations and trends as they arise.
2. We plan to reach out to the livestock industry by exploring ways to make their business with the Department easier. This would include such things as making Brand Renewal, Commuter Permits, Hatchery Licenses, and Garbage Feeding Licenses available on the internet.
3. Education has been key to our success and remains a vital part of our plans to continue to be involved with it. The entire meat inspection force has participated in a week long training course in College Station, Texas, entitled Field Automated Information Management Training (FAIM -Training). This inspection team has been supplied with lap top computers and this has resulted in a seamless communication system between the inspection force, the state office and the federal program.

4. A \$20,000 grant with Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) to develop a farm to table food safety program in the State of Utah. Possible ways to deliver this educational program include the use of lap top computers and power point presentations in evening educational programs to farmers on ways to produce better, safer food. Use of internet information, web pages, pamphlets, and brochures are being explored, as well as the possibility of seminars prior to sale times at auction markets around the state.

5. The Division has obtained, with the Department of Health, a \$5,000 grant from CDC to educate practitioners and local producers to the warning signs and symptoms of West Nile Virus, and other foreign animal diseases which may gain entry to this country. Our current plan is to incorporate this effort with information on other reportable diseases in the State of Utah into a reference booklet. This booklet will serve as a ready reference guide to reportable diseases, sale or movement requirements, regulated diseases, public health laws pertaining to veterinarians, information on animal disease laboratories, and frequently needed phone numbers.